

## NOTICE.

The next issue of "L'Umile Pianta" will be on October 1st. All matter must reach the Editor by September 7th. Accounts of holidays of any educational value are particularly asked for—foreign travel, summer courses, etc.

The delay in the appearance of the last number was neither the fault of the Editor nor of the printer, but was due to the Letchworth postal authorities, who have since apologised.

May the Editor once more remind the sub-editors that if they have nothing to send, a post-card intimating that fact would be at least a courteous aid to their Editor. No communication whatever has again been vouchsafed from some of them.

The Editor would remind all readers of "L'Umile Pianta" that articles and letters printed are not therefore "authorised," nor is the Editor responsible for the opinions expressed. What we want is a free interchange of question and answer. We may marvel at the questions and disagree with the answers, but discussion of a mutually helpful type is all we can aspire unto.

## STUDENTS' MEETINGS.

A meeting of students was held at 13, Chilworth Street, W. (by permission of Miss Faunce and Miss Evans). The following were present:—G. Bradford, M. E. Davis, M. Evans, L. Faunce, M. E. Franklin, C. N. Heath, E. A. Parish, E. M. Saunders, V. R. Saunders, E. Smith, H. Strachan, G. Wilkinson, J. Wilkinson, H. Wix.

Suggestions for a badge for the P.U.S. was discussed. Designs and suggestions for such a badge, very full of imagination, contributed by children working in the P.U.S., were shown to the meeting. It was thought desirable that

all the children of the P.U.S. be asked to contribute designs before November 1st, and that Miss Mason be asked if she would kindly select the most suitable. It was resolved that a letter to this effect be sent to the September P.R., and further details of this letter were discussed.

The following other suggestions had been received, and were discussed:—

1. That it was extremely desirable that ex-students, especially those living at a distance from a P.N.E.U. centre, should keep themselves up to the mark by reading new volumes of the Home Education Series, and re-reading old ones. That, in order to obtain this efficiency, certain chapters should be read in a given time, and discussed in "L'Umile Pianta."

It was the opinion of the meeting that this could be effected better if students become qualified members of the Union, *i.e.*, that they should study Miss Mason's books until they have satisfied themselves that they are able to answer the questions at the end of them. They can then obtain "full membership" forms from the House of Education. Students who have read all the books while at Scale How are, *ipso facto*, qualified members, but the meeting expressed the opinion that they should re-read chapters from the books from time to time.

In order to prevent desultoriness, it was resolved that students who will undertake to become or to remain qualified members of the P.N.E.U. should send in their names to the Secretary, that they may form a band within the Association.

It is hoped that a large number of students will respond to this.

2. That it would be helpful if sketches of lessons were to be published in "L'Umile Pianta," with, if possible, reports of the pupils' narration (of course, without their knowledge). These should be criticised by other students.

It was resolved that different students be asked to contribute sketches of lessons on given subjects, and that



these be criticised in the succeeding number of the magazine. Miss Parish undertook to collect the sketches, and all students are invited to send suggestions for subjects of lessons, and to contribute criticisms.

3. One student has gleaned passages of general interest from various budgets, which will be sent to "L'Umile Pianta," on such subjects as: Wrinkles in teaching, scouting, handicraft ideas, books, etc.

It is hoped that this will be done more widely.

Various difficulties with regard to the examination questions were discussed, but no resolution was passed on this subject.

The students present considered Chilworth Street to be more convenient for meetings than Baker Street.

The next meeting will be held at 13, Chilworth Street, at 3.30 p.m., on Saturday, October 3rd. There will be a Students' Committee Meeting at 2.30, with regard to which suggestions are invited.

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#### CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

"Jock of the Bush Veldt." By Sir P. Fitzpatrick. (Very much appreciated by all who read it.)

"Stories from Froissart." By Henry Newbolt, and illustrated by Gordon Browne.

"The Book of King Arthur and His Noble Knights."

"Tales of the Canterbury Pilgrims." Both published by Wells Gardner.

"Sir Toady Lion." By Crockett. (An old favourite.)

"The Child's Book of Saints." Everyman's Library.

"The Book of Romance." By Andrew Lang.

Wagner's Heroes." "Wagner's Heroines." Both by Constance Maud.

"In God's Garden." "Knights of Art." Both by Amy Steedman.

"The Animal Autobiography" Series is very good, and excellently illustrated.

"The Seashore Shown to Children" is most useful.

#### FAIRY TALES.

"The Winged Wolf, and other Tales." From the Russian.

"Beyond the Blue Mountains." By L. T. Meade.

"Indian Fairy Tales." By Joseph Jacobs.

"The Enchanted Land." By Louie Chisholme.

#### NOVELS.

"The Old Country." By Henry Newbolt.

"Frl. Schmidt and Dr. Anstruther." By the author of "Elizabeth and Her German Garden."

"Alice for Short." "Joseph Vance." "Somehow Good." By W. de Morgan. (All excellent.)

"The Mother." By Philpotts.

"The Shuttle." By F. Hodgson Burnett.

#### GERMAN BOOKS.

"Asnnes (?) Semper's Jugendland." By Otto Ernst. (A most delightful book.)

"Jörn Uhl." By G. Frensen.

#### CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

"Theodora Phranza." By Rev. J. M. Neale. (About the fall of Constantinople, 1453. Most vivid.)

"Joan of Arc." (An intimate sympathetic biography.

"Edited" by Mark Twain. Very good illustrations.)

"In the Wars of the Roses." By E. Everett Greene. (About young Edward of Lancaster. Suitable for Class II.)

#### HISTORY CHARTS FOR CLASS I., A. and B.

"X took whole sheet of cartridge paper, and divided it longways, for England and Scotland. Then each column



was divided into spaces proportionate to the lengths of the reigns, and only one or two largish cartoons were drawn in each reign, simply quite the principal events. For instance, in Edward VI's space an open Bible; in Queen Mary's, a heart with 'Calais' written on it."

#### GEOGRAPHY FOR CLASS I., A. and B.

"In geography, X had a large paper map of the world, only the outline, Equator, and Tropics printed. Then she and the child (a boy of seven) used to go for long journeys, naming the places they went to, marking in rivers and mountain ranges as they discovered them, and painting British possessions red, but no *names* are printed on the map. The boy had sometimes to conduct the tour, to show that he remembered where he had been."

#### FRANCO-BRITISH EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS.

Great disappointment has been expressed at the very unrepresentative character of the P.N.E.U. exhibits at the White City. The literature is of course all that could be desired, but the Nature Note Books are only those of students—none of their pupils; and the handicrafts are very poor in quantity, though not in quality. Could not students who themselves do suitable work for exhibition, or whose pupils do, send a list to the Ambleside authorities or the London Secretary, that there might be some recognised fund of such things to draw upon.

The loyal heart does not like to feel that the best work is all kept as a purely personal matter, while anything is good enough for the cause.

As all such exhibits are unnamed, there could be no base personal advertisement in offering our best as specimens of our training and purpose.

#### READING CLUB.

French book recommended by F. J. Jules Verne's "La Mysterieuse."

"The Inward Light," by W. Fielding Hall. (Buddhism as an aspect of mind rather than a creed.)

"Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester." (A well-written life of a man too apt to be a mere name in a history book.)